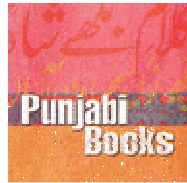


# Careless handling of research magazine

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**DAWN**COM

**KHOJ...biannual research magazine of the Punjab University's Punjabi Department; editors Dr Ismat Ullah Zahid and Dr Naveed Shahzad; pp 160; price Rs150; Published from Oriental College, Punjab University, Old Campus, Lahore.**

This is the second issue of 2010 and its number is 63 which should actually have been 65. This 'sickness' of the magazine has been going on for the last three to four years, highlighting the university's indifference towards the Punjabi language.

It is sad that none other than the Punjabi elite, politicians and intellectuals had ignored the language and retarded its development.

The magazine's current issue carries two articles on Persian poets – one in Punjabi by Dr Muhammad Nasir and the other in Urdu by Dr Ejaz Ahmad Nadeem; the latter is to some extent relevant to Punjabi because it is about those Persian poets who had versified the story of Heer Ranjha.

The article is mainly based on Dr Baqir's research book, "Punjabi qissay farsi zaban mein".

One finds no relevance of Jami with the Punjabi language. The only reason could be that the author is a colleague of the editors at the Oriental College. He does not refer to any translation of Jami's work into Punjabi while the poets like Shahab Din of Sialkot had translated many of the Sufi poets of Persian, including all volumes of Maulana Rumi's Masnavi.

There are many other Persian poets whose work (or selected work) had been translated into Punjabi. There is no reference to any of the Punjabi poets who were Jami's contemporaries. It's the duty of the editors to add the names of the Punjabi poets who they think follow Abdur Rahman Jami as their inspiration.

The praiseworthy article included in the issue is on Punjabi lullabies by East Punjab scholar Dr Darshan Singh Aashiat who has minutely consulted Pakistani Punjabi books on folk songs and exploited this source well. The editors however have failed to cross-check the footnotes which carry references to 16 and 32 ... Lok Geet Pakistan Punjabi Adabi Board, August 1980 PP 5-6. The question is who has authored this book because the board has published more than one book on folk songs.

Although Dr Shaukat Ali Qamar has done research on poet Ali Haider and earned PhD degree, the fact is that this poet who had voiced his protest against the rulers and courtiers of Delhi for siding with Nadir Shah Irani could not attract more attention from scholars of Punjabi/Seraiki.

Dr Lajwanti Ramkrisan was the first scholar who had referred to his poetry. His selected poetry was translated into Urdu verse and published in book form titled 'Kook' by Lok Virsa, Islamabad. His poetry was first presented in print by a Lahore publisher.

There was no need for Asma Qadri to reproduce most definitions of classic in English and T.S. Eliot's comments in Urdu. It was better that Eliot should also have been quoted in original.